



# San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

## *Planning Update 1 - Summer 2006* **Comprehensive Conservation Planning Begins in the Summer**

### **Save the Date!**

**San Pablo Bay CCP  
Public Meeting  
Join us on Wednesday,  
July 26, 2006  
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.  
at Mare Island,  
375 G Street,  
Vallejo, California 94592**

**Directions on Page 6**

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San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is embarking on an important process to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Refuge. This plan will help to guide overall Refuge management for the next 15 years. Your ideas and comments will be an important part of the process, so I encourage you to participate.

Before we begin the process, I would like to provide background about the Refuge's history and current management. In this update, you will also find some information about the National Wildlife Refuge System and how comprehensive conservation planning fits into refuge management.

This first "Planning Update" describes the beginning of the planning process and provides information about attending our CCP kick-off meeting to be held on July 26, 2006 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Mare Island, 375 G Street, Vallejo, California (see directions on page 6).

We will refer to information provided in this planning update throughout the CCP process. Please try to read this planning update prior to the public meeting in order to facilitate discussion at the meeting.

Please join us at the meeting and share your thoughts about the Refuge. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and questions. Directions to the meeting location are available through Winnie Chan, the Refuge Planner, at (510)792-0222 or [winnie Chan@fws.gov](mailto:winnie_chan@fws.gov).

I hope you will feel free to contact me or Winnie Chan if you have any questions.

Christy Smith  
Refuge Manager

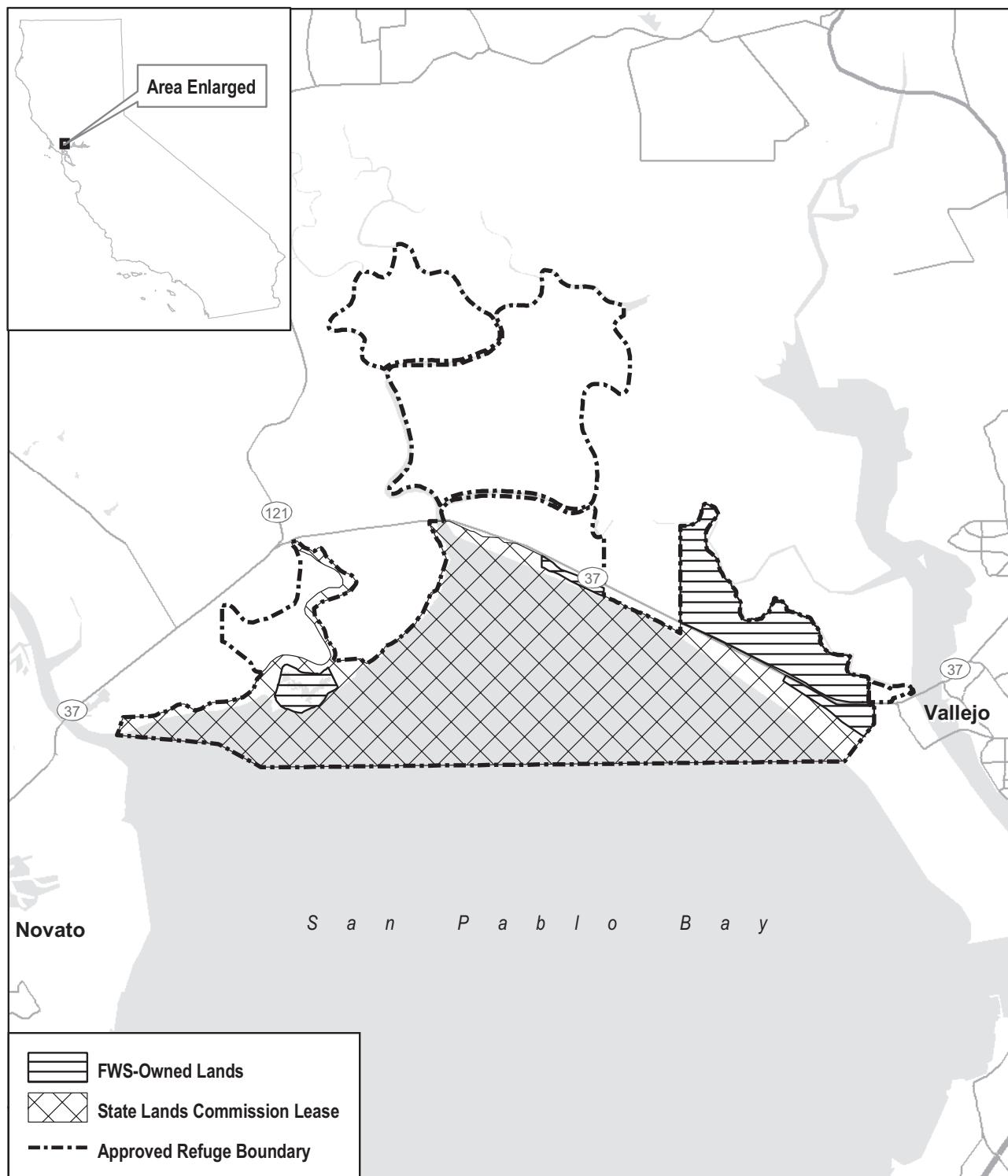


**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

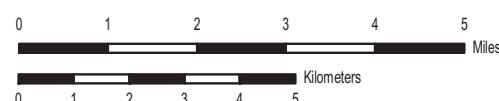
## San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Sonoma, Solano, Marin, and Napa Counties, California

**Refuge Land Status**



PRODUCED IN THE REFUGE PLANNING BRANCH  
CA/NV OPERATIONS OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 7/3/06  
MAP DATE: 7/3/06  
BASEMAP: ESRI STREETMAP  
FILE: SNP\_STA.MXD



UTM ZONE 10  
NAD 83

## The Refuge Location and Description

San Pablo Bay Refuge is part of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, which consists of seven refuges within the San Francisco Bay area. The Refuge boundary was established in 1970, but first lands were not acquired until 1974. The 13,190-acre San Pablo Bay Refuge sits on the northernmost edge of San Francisco Bay. Made up of eight non-contiguous units, the Refuge is nestled among agricultural lands, with Highway 37 running through the Refuge. The Refuge is made up of a variety of habitats including tidal marsh, muted tidal marsh, seasonal freshwater wetland, mudflats/open bay and islands.

## Refuge Biology

Vegetation on the Refuge is made up of a variety of marsh species. However, non-native and invasive plants occur on the Refuge due to past human activity, primarily agricultural uses. The Refuge also provides habitat for two endangered species- the salt marsh harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) and the California clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris*).

## The Refuge Purpose

The Refuge was established to provide habitat for migratory birds and endangered species.

*“...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds.”* (Migratory Bird Conservation Act)

*“...particular value in carrying out the national migratory bird management program.”* (An Act Authorizing the Transfer of Certain Real Property for Wildlife, or other purposes)

*“...to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species... or (B) plants...”* (Endangered Species Act of 1973)



Lower Tubbs Island (© James Martin)

## What is a CCP?

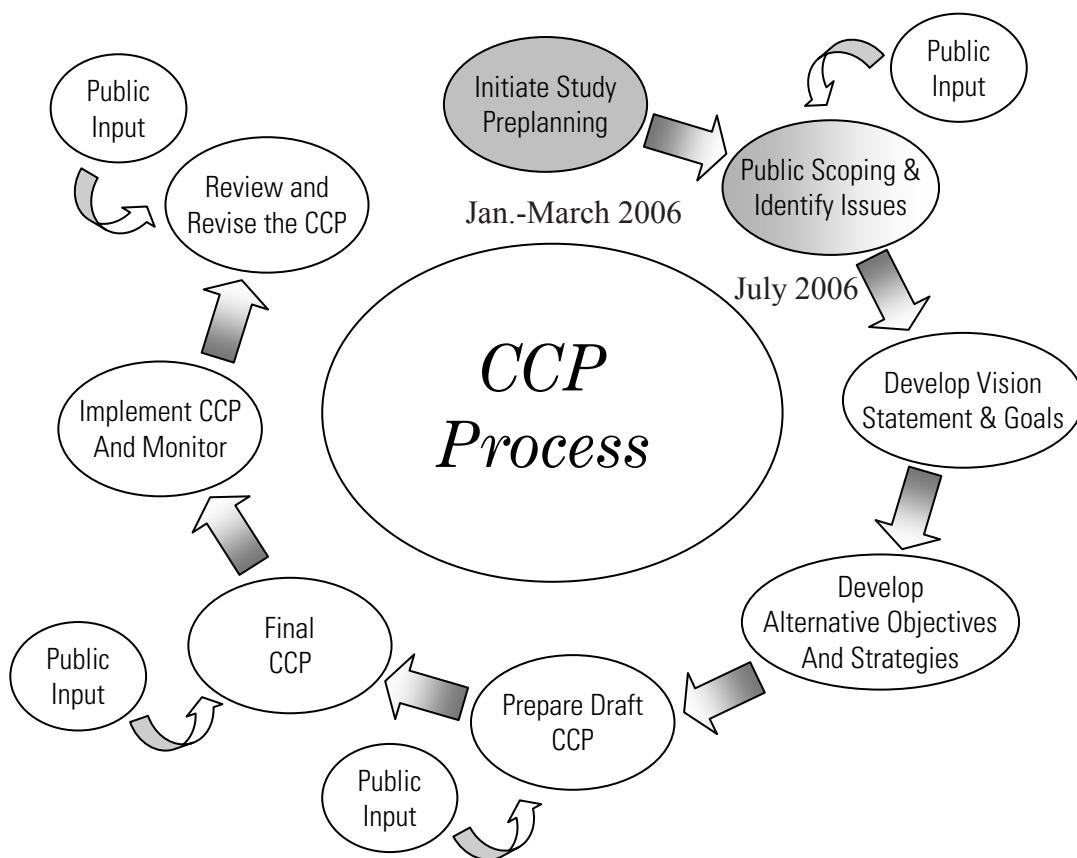
In 1997, Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. The Act defined the mission for the Refuge System, and states that all wildlife refuges must have a CCP in place by the year 2012. These plans provide a 15-year guide, using the best available scientific knowledge, to help managers achieve the purposes for which each refuge was established, and to contribute to the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Act provides the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) with guidance for managing refuges in a way that ensures the long-term conservation of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. Maintenance of biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health along with facilitating compatible wildlife-dependent recreation in the Refuge System are two of the important guiding principles laid out in the Act.

The CCP for the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge will outline goals, objectives and management strategies for the Refuge for the 15-year life of the CCP. The accompanying Environmental Assessment will describe the alternatives considered and analyze the environmental effects of each proposed alternative. The Service is preparing this CCP for the following reasons:

- To ensure that management of the Refuge reflects Refuge purposes and the mission, policies, and goals of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- To provide the public with information and opportunities to comment on management actions planned for the Refuge.
- To provide a vision statement for the Refuge.
- To ensure the compatibility of current and future uses of the Refuge with Refuge purposes.
- To provide long-term continuity in Refuge management.
- To provide budget justification for operations, maintenance, and facilities requests.

The CCP will be a flexible “living document.” It will be reviewed periodically to ensure that its goals, objectives, implementation strategies, and timetables are still appropriate.

The key planning steps are described in the flow chart on the following page. Currently, we are in the pre-planning phase gathering data and beginning public scoping with the release of this update.



## About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The Service manages the 100-million acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses more than 545 units in all 50 states and several U.S. territories. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices, and 81 ecological services field stations.

The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their wildlife and habitat conservation efforts.

The Service also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

## About the National Wildlife Refuge System

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt protected an island in Florida's Indian River with nesting pelicans, herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills from feather collectors decimating their colonies. He established Pelican Island as the nation's first bird sanctuary and went on to establish many other sanctuaries for wildlife during his tenure. This small network of sanctuaries continued to expand, eventually becoming the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the largest system of lands in the world dedicated primarily for the conservation of wildlife. The system is spread across 50 states, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Johnston Atoll, Midway Atoll, and several other Pacific Islands. About 21 million acres on 65 refuges in the Refuge System are managed as wilderness (undeveloped Federal lands that have had limited human influence) under the Wilderness Act of 1964.

## What is the mission of the Refuge System?

Refuges are places where wildlife comes first.

“The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.” (National Wildlife Refuge Systems Improvement Act of 1997)

The Service is a “primary use agency.” This means that units of the Refuge System are managed first and foremost for the benefit of fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. Our mission differs from other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service, which focuses on forest stewardship and sustainable forest uses; the Bureau of Land Management, which deals with the productivity and multiple use of the land; and the National Park Service, which conserves scenery, wildlife, and historic objects for people’s enjoyment.

## Help Us Plan the Future

Over the next year, interested individuals, agencies, and organizations are invited to express their concerns and share their visions for the Refuge. We will be sending these planning updates periodically to local constituents, government agencies, private organizations, and others in the community who express interest.

This is your opportunity to help us identify issues and concerns, and for us to answer any questions you may have. Your participation is critical to the success of this planning effort. You will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment.

You are invited to a public meeting to provide input on the Refuge CCP. The date and location of this meeting is listed on the following page. This meeting will provide an opportunity for you to meet with Refuge staff, learn more about the Refuge, learn about the CCP process, and help us identify issues to be addressed in the CCP. If you cannot attend the meeting, fax or e-mail your comment to Winnie Chan, her contact information is on page 6.

## What's in a name?

The San Pablo Bay Refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which coordinates with California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) on a variety of management issues.

Many people confuse state and federal fish and wildlife agencies because their names are similar. The Service is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Interior. The DFG is a department within the California Resources Agency.

Our names are similar and so are our missions: both agencies are dedicated to wildlife conservation for the benefit of present and future generations. Our jurisdictions are different. The Service is the lead agency responsible for federally-listed endangered species and migratory birds, whether they are located on federal, state, or private lands. The DFG has primary responsibility for resident fish and wildlife on state and private lands, and oversees state-listed endangered species and stream alteration issues throughout California.



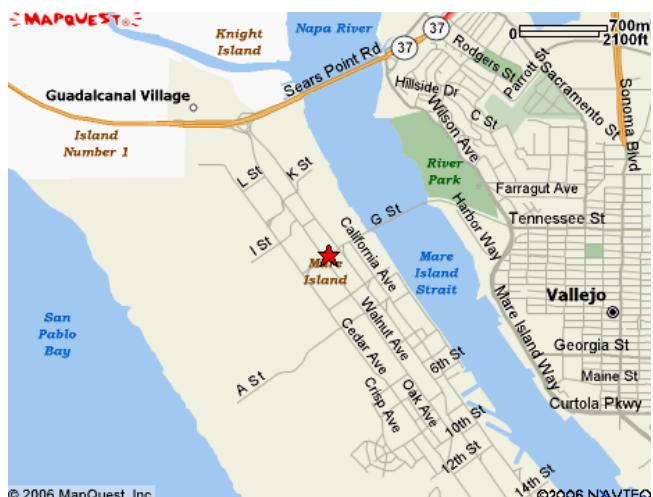
Sonoma Creek (© James Martin).

## Public Meeting Location

**Date:** Wednesday, July 26, 2006

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Mare Island  
375 G Street  
Vallejo, California 94592



### Directions:

#### BY CAR

*From the South:*

80 East

780 West

780 West becomes Curtola Parkway

Curtola becomes Mare Island Way

Turn left on Mare Island Causeway

Mare Island Causeway becomes G Street

*From the North:*

80 West

Take Highway 37 West toward San Rafael

Exit Wilson Avenue/Sacramento Street

Turn left onto Wilson Avenue

Turn right onto Mare Island Causway

Mare Island Causway becomes G Street

#### PARKING

Free parking is available next to the building.

### Please feel free to contact us

We are available to provide additional information regarding the Refuge and the planning process. Feel free to call, write, or e-mail us at [sfbaynwrc@fws.gov](mailto:sfbaynwrc@fws.gov).

If you did not receive this update through the mail and would like to be on our mailing list, or if you would like to be removed from the list, please contact us.

#### Winnie Chan, Refuge Planner

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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#### Mendel Stewart, Project Leader

San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
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(510) 792-0222



Tolay Creek (USFWS).

*Address correction requested*  
Newark, California 94560-0524  
P.O. Box 524  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

